



GEORGIA DRUG CONTROL UPDATE

This report reflects significant trends, data, and major issues relating to drugs in the State of Georgia.

Georgia At-a-Glance:

- Approximately 6.51 percent of Georgia residents reported past-month use of illicit drugs; the national average was 8.82 percent.
Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2009-2010.
- In 2011, marijuana was the most commonly cited drug among primary drug treatment admissions in Georgia.
- The rate of drug-induced deaths in Georgia is lower than the national average.

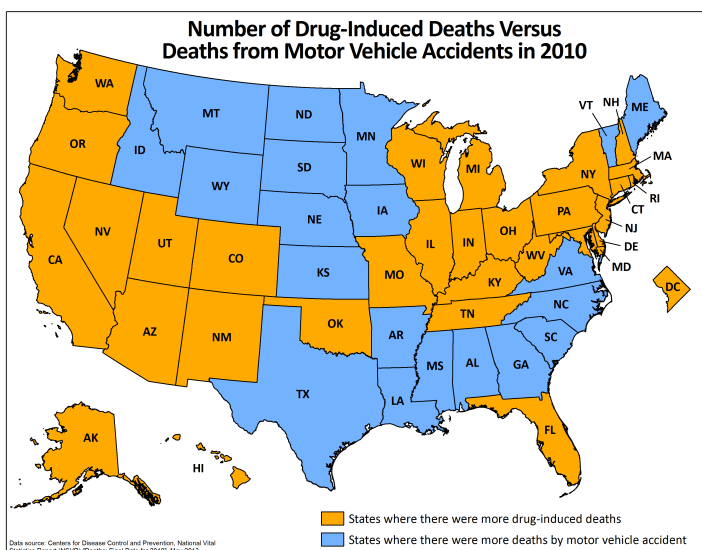
Drug Use Trends in Georgia

Drug Use in Georgia: The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) provides national and state-level data on the use of tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs (including non-medical use of prescription drugs) and mental health in the United States. In the most recent Survey, 6.51 percent of Georgia residents reported using illicit drugs in the past month. The national average was 8.82 percent. Additionally, 2.70 percent of Georgia residents reported using an illicit drug other than marijuana in the past month. (The national average was 3.33 percent.)

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration - State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2009–2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/SMA11-4641/SMA11-4641.pdf>

Drug-Induced Deaths: As a direct consequence of drug use, 1,124 persons died in Georgia in 2010. This is compared to the number of persons in Georgia who died from motor vehicle accidents (1,324) and firearms (1,223) in the same year. Georgia drug-induced deaths (11.6 per 100,000 population) were lower than the national rate (12.9 per 100,000).

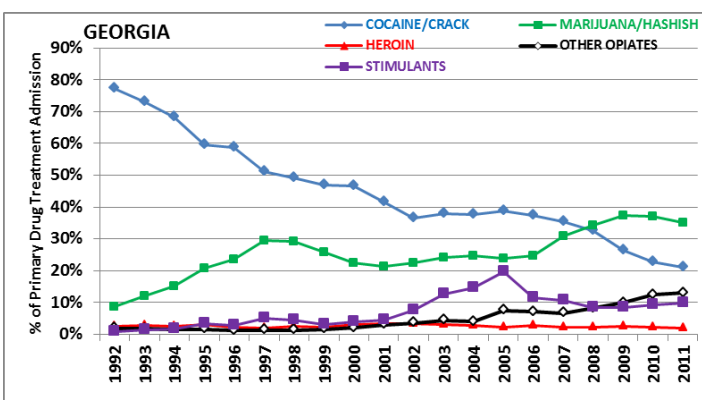
Source: WONDER online databases: <http://wonder.cdc.gov/cmf-icd10.html>



Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Data

Georgia Primary Treatment Admissions: The graph on the right depicts substance abuse primary treatment admissions in Georgia from 1992 to 2011. The data show marijuana was the most commonly cited drug among primary drug treatment admissions in Georgia.

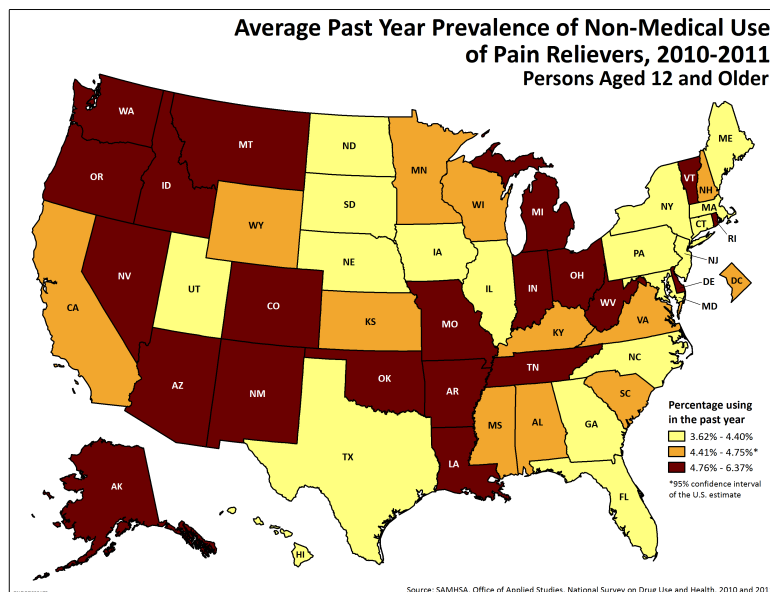
Source: Treatment Episode Data Set, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/DASIS.aspx#teds>



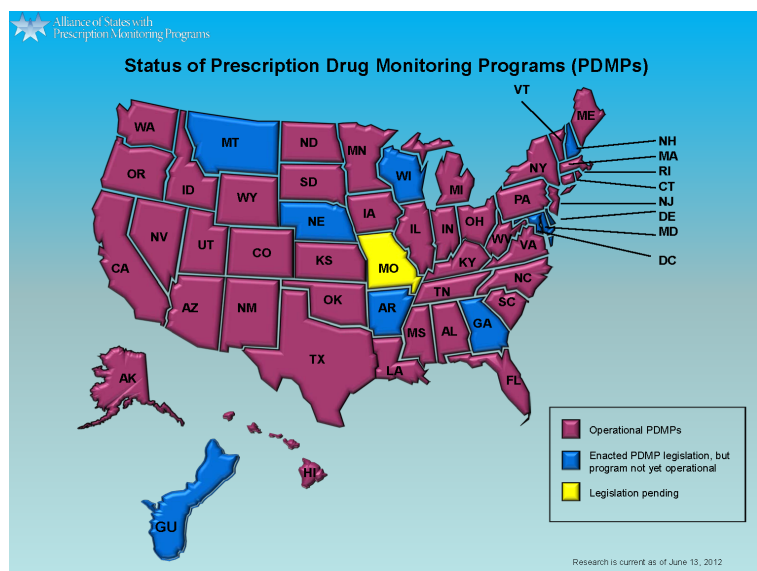
Prescription Drug Abuse

ONDCP's Efforts to Combat Prescription Drug Abuse

Prescription drug abuse is the fastest-growing drug problem in the Nation. The Administration's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan entitled **"Epidemic: Responding to America's Prescription Drug Abuse Crisis,"** provides a national framework for reducing prescription drug diversion and abuse by supporting the expansion of state-based prescription drug monitoring programs; recommending secure, more convenient, and environmentally responsible disposal methods to remove expired, unused, or unneeded medications from the home; supporting education for patients and healthcare providers; and reducing the prevalence of pill mills and doctor shopping through enforcement efforts.



State-Level Action: Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs)



PDMPs track controlled substances prescribed by authorized practitioners and dispensed by pharmacies. PDMPs serve a number of functions, including assisting in patient care, providing early warning signs of drug epidemics, and detecting drug diversion and insurance fraud. Forty-one states have operational PDMP programs established by state legislation and funded by a combination of state and Federal funds. An additional 9 states and territories have a prescription drug monitoring program authorized, but not yet operational. Adequate resourcing, increasing the number of states with operational PDMPs, and development of state-to-state information-sharing systems would significantly help reduce prescription drug diversion and abuse.

On May 16, Governor Nathan Deal signed **SB 36**, authorizing the establishment of a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to monitor the prescribing and dispensing of Schedule II-V controlled substances. Georgia's PDMP will be overseen by the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency.

Source: http://www1.legis.ga.gov/legis/2011_12/sum/sb36.htm

State-Level Action: Drug Take-Back Programs

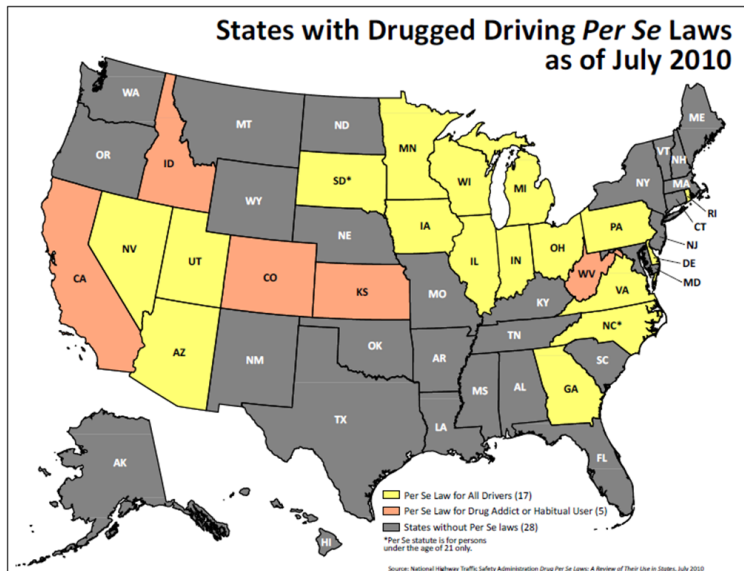
A comprehensive plan to address prescription drug abuse must include proper disposal of unused, unneeded, or expired medications. Providing individuals with a secure and convenient way to dispose of controlled substances will help prevent diversion and abuse of these substances and demonstrate sound environmental stewardship. Federal rulemaking is underway and will further enhance the viability and scope of state and

community take-back programs. In the meantime, states are encouraged to work with the DEA to conduct additional take-back events and educate the public about safe and effective drug return and disposal.

Drugged Driving

ONDCP Action on Drugged Driving

In 2007, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that one in eight weekend, nighttime drivers tested positive for illicit drugs. According to recent Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS) data, one in three motor vehicle fatalities (33 percent) with known drug test results tested positive for drugs in 2009. Recognizing this growing problem, ONDCP is working to raise awareness of the dangers of drugged driving, provide increased training to law enforcement in identifying drugged drivers, and encourage states to consider *Per Se* laws to facilitate effective enforcement and prosecution of those who drive with drugs in their systems.



State-Level Action: Enacting *Per Se* Standards for Impairment

Although all 50 states have laws against drugged driving, law enforcement often lacks adequate tools to enforce and prosecute drugged driving. ONDCP encourages states to consider *Per Se* standards for impairment that make it illegal to drive a vehicle after taking illegal drugs. This is the same standard used successfully for 12 million commercial drivers in the United States over the past two decades. *Per Se* standards have been adopted in 17 states.

Under Georgia's Zero-Tolerance (*Per Se*) Law, Section 40-6-391 (a), a person shall not drive or be in actual physical control of any moving vehicle in Georgia while under the influence of any drug, glue, aerosol or other toxic vapor, marijuana, or any controlled substance to the extent that it is less safe for the person to drive. The law applies if there is any amount of marijuana or controlled substance, including their metabolites and derivatives, in the person's blood or urine.

Source: *A State-by-State Analysis of Laws Dealing With Driving Under the Influence of Drugs*, by the Walsh Group for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

ONDCP Support for Community-Based Prevention

The Drug Free Communities (DFC) Program

Recognizing that local problems require local solutions, Drug Free Communities (DFC) organizations mobilize communities to prevent youth drug use by creating local data-driven strategies to reduce drug use in the community. ONDCP works to foster the growth of new coalitions and support existing coalitions through the DFC grants. In FY 2013, the following Georgia coalitions received grants from ONDCP:

- Cook County Drug Free Communities
- Drug Free Forsyth Coalition
- Gwinnett Coalition for Health and Human Services
- H.E.A.R.T. Coalition, Inc.
- Troup County Prevention Coalition
- Drug Free Coalition of Hall County
- Georgia API Team Empowerment

Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy
http://www.ondcp.gov/dfc/grantee_map.html

National Anti-Drug Media Campaign

ONDCP's National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign provides consistent and credible messages (including in Native American and Alaska Native communities) to young people about drug use and its consequences. *Above the Influence*, a major component of the Campaign, informs and inspires youth to reject illicit drugs and drinking via a mix of national and local advertising vehicles. The Campaign, in close partnership with local community-based, youth-serving organizations, also conducts teen-targeted *Above the Influence* activities to assist local groups with youth drug prevention work in their respective communities.

ONDCP High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) County Info

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program enhances and coordinates drug control efforts among local, state, and Federal law enforcement agencies. In designated HIDTA counties, the program provides agencies with coordination, equipment, technology, and additional resources to combat drug trafficking and its harmful consequences in critical regions of the United States.

HIDTA Counties in Georgia:

Atlanta HIDTA: City of Atlanta; Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport; Barrow, Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, and DeKalb counties.

- The primary focus of the Atlanta HIDTA initiatives continues to be investigating the operations of the Mexican-based drug cartels. It is suggested that Honduran traffickers have an increased presence. They are either working alone and/or with known Mexican drug trafficking organizations such as La Familia, the Arturo Beltran Leyva Organization, the Sinaloa Cartel, the Juarez Cartel, and the Gulf Cartel/Zetas. Their presence in the Atlanta HIDTA area creates a primary distribution center for illicit narcotics throughout the Eastern United States and the control center for moving illicit proceeds back to Mexico.
- The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) was signed into law in 2011 and is scheduled to become fully operational in 2013. It is believed that the PDMP will further increase the use of heroin as prescription pills become scarce and prices rise because the user base will turn to heroin in an effort to satisfy their opiate addiction.
- The Atlanta HIDTA hosts an annual prevention conference to provide a unique opportunity for law enforcement, treatment providers, and drug demand reduction professionals to learn about developing trends, changes, or anomalies that better prepare the community to set priorities, prepare for coming issues, and build relationships across the community involved with drug abuse.

Federal Grant Awards Available to Reduce Drug Use in the State of Georgia

The Federal Government awards competitive grants to help states in their efforts to reduce drug use and its harmful consequences. In FY 2012, direct support was provided to state and local governments, schools, and law enforcement organizations in your state for this purpose. Some Federal grant programs are dedicated to reducing drug use and its harmful consequences while others can be used for reducing drug use or for other purposes. In FY 2012, your State received support under the grant programs shown below.

Federal Grant Awards That Help Reduce the Availability and Misuse Of Drugs In The State of GA	
Department / Office / Program Name	2012
Department of Agriculture	\$ 16,872,694
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	
Cooperative Extension Service	\$ 16,872,694
Department of Defense	\$ 9,675,000
The Army	
National Guard Challenge Program	\$ 9,675,000
Department of Education	\$ 41,121,809
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education	
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Programs	\$ 760,161
Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers	\$ 40,361,648
Department of Health and Human Services	\$ 159,990,185
Administration for Children and Families	
Enhance Safety of Children Affected by Substance Abuse	\$ 790,452
Promoting Safe and Stable Families	\$ 13,271,779
Transitional Living for Homeless Youth	\$ 799,833
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	
Medical Assistance Program - Grants to States for Medicaid To Treat Substance Abuse	\$ 31,239,886
National Institutes of Health	
Alcohol Research Programs	\$ 13,511,754
Drug Abuse and Addiction Research Programs	\$ 22,435,150
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	
Block Grants for Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse	\$ 50,140,789
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)	\$ 1,511,000
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Projects of Regional and National Significance	\$ 22,797,565
Health Resources and Services Administration	
Healthy Start Initiative	\$ 3,491,977
Department of Housing and Urban Development	\$ 39,948,468
Community Planning and Development	
Emergency Shelter Grants Program	\$ 2,190,354
Emergency Solutions Grant Program	\$ 6,062,604
Shelter Plus Care	\$ 14,383,524
Supportive Housing Program	\$ 17,311,986
Department of Justice	\$ 36,945,189
Office of Justice Programs	
Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program	\$ 358,424
Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program	\$ 1,500,000
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program	\$ 8,522,933
Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Discretionary Grants Program	\$ 282,147
Juvenile Accountability Block Grants	\$ 636,495
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Allocation to States	\$ 724,102
Juvenile Mentoring Program	\$ 23,466,673
Project Safe Neighborhoods	\$ 150,000
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners	\$ 304,415
Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative	\$ 1,000,000
Department of Labor	\$ 2,938,150
Employment and Training Administration	

Federal Grant Awards That Help Reduce the Availability and Misuse Of Drugs In The State of GA	
Department / Office / Program Name	2012
Youthbuild	\$ 2,938,150
Department of Transportation	\$ 3,607,962
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	
Alcohol Impaired Driving Countermeasures Incentive Grants I	\$ 3,607,962
Department of Veteran's Affairs	\$ 2,864,722
Veterans Health Administration	
VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program	\$ 2,864,722
Executive Office of The President	\$ 7,153,481
Office of National Drug Control Policy	
Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grants	\$ 950,000
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program	\$ 6,203,481
Grand Total	\$ 321,117,660

File updated 07/31/13.

Office of National Drug Control Policy Programs in Georgia

